

19 November 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/7

CONFIDENTIAL

THROUGH : Chief, TSS/Technical Operations

SUBJECT : Test of Burial Packaging Materials

REFERENCE : Memorandum for Chief, SR Division, Through Chief, TSS/TO from Chief, TSS/MD, Subject, Test of Burial Packaging Materials, dated 28 September 1954

1. The referenced memorandum requested your assistance in a burial program being initiated by this division. In a recent meeting with personnel of the Mechanical Division, [] requested additional information regarding the program before initiating action with the []. This memorandum supplements and makes more specific the information you now have regarding the program.

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2. Technical Services Staff/Mechanical Division is currently engaged in a burial packaging program that will test and evaluate various commercial and Agency packaging materials now available or in the process of development. Caches have recently been placed at two locations in the eastern United States, one in the north and one in the south. The articles cached are old style bayonets and old .38 caliber pistols. The pistols have been sterilized and rendered inoperable.

3. The above articles were packaged in plastic hot dip compounds, self-sealing rubber, heat sealable moisture resistant barrier materials, and special stainless steel and fiberglass burial containers. The packaged items were crated, some in pine wood, others in cypress. They were buried in various soil and water conditions; loam, sand, clay, and swamp; and in fresh, salt, and brackish water.

4. It is requested that the SR Division assist TSS/MD in initiating and carrying out a similar test program in []. This would provide test information on our caching materials under area conditions impossible for TSS to duplicate at any present domestic installation.

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5. At present we envision that the following conditions will apply to an [] burial program:

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A. The material to be buried will not exceed 300 pounds.

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B. The largest single package will not exceed 50 pounds and will probably have approximate dimensions of 12" x 18" x 26".

C. The items buried will be sterile, non-compromising, and expendable. Guns and bayonets will not be used, but rather some miscellaneous hardware.

D. All packaged goods will be in boxes and crates made of pine and cypress.

E. The actual burial should be done by personnel of the [redacted]

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F. Access is required to areas that provide conditions of extreme cold in one instance and perma-frost in the other. These areas should be under military or Agency control.

G. It is suggested that the material be cached sometime next summer so as to take full advantage of the maximum warmth and softness of the soil.

H. The duration of the program will be two years, with inspections of the cached goods scheduled at one and two years after burial. These inspections will be performed by TSS/MD personnel.

6. It is requested that the SR Division advise TSS/MD with regard to:

A. Possibility of burying in [redacted]

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B. Caching locations.

C. Information relative to the military caching program in [redacted]

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[redacted] who has considerable caching experience would be of assistance in obtaining this information.

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7.

[redacted] extension [redacted], or the Mechanical Division, may be contacted regarding this program.

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Chief

Mechanical Division, TSS

TSS/MD [redacted]

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Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee

1 - TSS/SRB

✓ 1 - Burial Pckg. File

1 - MD Chrono

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